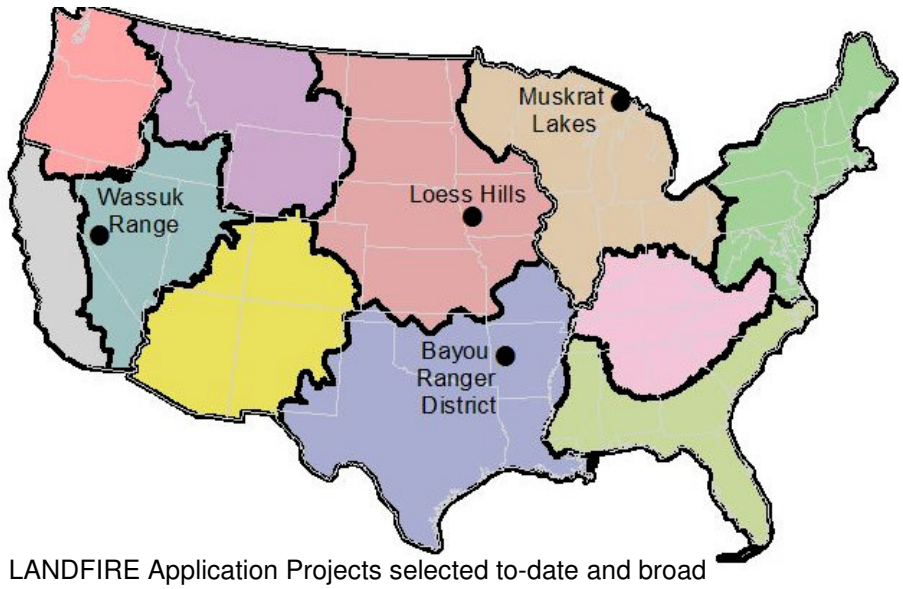
LANDFIRE

Application Projects

About LANDFIRE Application Projects

Approximately ten landscape-scale, multi-partner application projects will be selected across the United States to test selected LANDFIRE products (see box at right for more information about the LANDFIRE project). Application projects will provide feedback to the LANDFIRE team on usefulness and accuracy of LANDFIRE products to landscape-level applications. LANDFIRE products tested by application projects include reference models, vegetation maps and classifications, historical fire regime data, and Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) maps.

LANDFIRE Application Projects responded to a request for proposals and were selected based on geographic and ecological diversity across broad model zones, engagement of partners, and needs for landscape-level data. Application projects receive funding to develop regional data and quantitatively compare it to LANDFIRE products. To-date, four application projects have been selected (see map below): the Wassuk Range, Nevada; Muskrat Lakes/Two Hearted River, Michigan; Bayou Ranger District, Arkansas; and Loess Hills, Iowa. Four new projects from three additional modeling zones are under review.



LANDFIRE Application Projects selected to-date and broad model zones.

LANDFIRE is a wildland fire, ecosystem, and fuel assessment-mapping project designed to generate consistent, comprehensive, landscape-scale maps of vegetation, fire, and fuel characteristics for the United States. It responds to agency and partner needs for data to support fire management planning, prioritization of fuel treatments, collaboration, community and firefighter protection and effective resource allocation. It is a collaborative $40 million 5-year partnership between the USDA Forest Service, Department of the Interior and The Nature Conservancy. For more information, please visit www.landfire.gov.

A **Rapid Assessment** is included in the LANDFIRE project and will consist of mapping and modeling Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) at a broad-scale resolution for the entire United States by the summer of 2005. The Rapid Assessment is designed to fill data needs before the entire suite of LANDFIRE products is available and to help refine reference vegetation dynamics models for the LANDFIRE project.

Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC) is an index for determining the degree of departure from the historic range of variability in vegetation, fuels, and disturbance regimes. For more information, please visit www.frcc.gov.

General Approach

Application projects will use reference models and existing data to map FRCC. They will document comparisons between their local/regional maps and national Rapid Assessment and/or LANDFIRE results, and provide written feedback to the LANDFIRE team. A three-year methodology will be applied (see table below).

LANDFIRE Application Project Yearly Deliverables	
Year 1	• Identify landscape partners with an interest in the mapping of FRCC. • Define landscape project boundaries. • Compile existing, local/regional spatial data for project area, including data such as potential natural vegetation (PNV), current cover type, current structure/cover/density, recent vegetation treatment history (i.e., prescribed burns, thinning, harvest), conservation targets and their viability rank, fire history (if available). • Compile existing reference models (FRCC, Rapid Assessment, and/or LANDFIRE models) available for PNVs in the project area. • Refine/create reference models for PNVs in the project area. • Describe use of models and FRCC mapping methods at Rapid Assessment modeling workshop and other regional workshops/conferences/meetings. • Prepare report for LANDFIRE team.
Year 2	• Compare local/regional spatial data and models to Rapid Assessment data and models. • Present results at LANDFIRE modeling workshop(s) and other regional workshops/conferenes/meetings. • Prepare report for LANDFIRE team.
Year 3	• Compare local/regional spatial data and models to LANDFIRE data and models. • Present results at local workshops/conferences/meetings. • Prepare report for LANDFIRE team.

Management Applications

Application projects will use LANDFIRE or regional data, such as historical fire regimes, Fire Regime Condition Class, and existing vegetation, to inform management decisions. Data can be used to:

- develop fire and conservation management plans,
- inform the management of species,
- prioritize placement of fuel-reduction treatments,
- assess threats to management and conservation targets,
- model fire behavior and spread, and
- model alternative management scenarios.

For more information, please contact:

Ayn Shlisky
TNC-LANDFIRE Lead
TNC Fire Initiative
ashlisky@tnc.org
720-974-7063